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Editorial

During India's struggle for freedom from the colonial powers, the Indians had synthesized a nationalism that set the tone for the course of history in the Indian subcontinent for years to come. The age-old idea of a feudal India gave way to a modern socialist republic where people belonging to all castes and classes could take part in the social and economic development of the country. This transformation in history has led to the economic enrichment of the nation. However, it is not to say that our nation is without its own set of problems; Corruption, social prejudice and other such socio-political ills have rendered the aim of our founding fathers to achieve an equitable society an elusive dream. Equitable and sustainable growth is only possible when all the stakeholders of the country realize their role in the scheme of things and perform their duty, respecting the rights of others, and consider the ecological impact of each of their actions. This issue of Artha carries seven well-researched articles on a wide spectrum of topics ranging from corruption and economic growth in Nigeria to different issues concerning India. These articles have tried to address the gap in our understanding of the issues concerning the development of developing countries like Nigeria and India, whose unique history has served them in shaping their modern day economy.

Corruption is an age-old problem that dates back to the very beginning of human existence and it exists in all spheres of human life. The persistency of corruption erodes the socio-economic value of a nation. The first article "Corruption and Economic Growth in Nigeria (1980-2013)" by Ibrahim W and Okunade, Sheu A investigates the relationship between corruption and economic growth in Nigeria, in the period 1980-2013, using the VAR analysis. The result in the analysis shows that corruption has a positive strong influence on the output of Nigeria.

In "French Travellers' Treatises on Oriental Diseases and Symptoms: Indo-French Medical History", Sakul Kundra analyzes the French travellers' observations on different diseases which have been helpful to the future travellers and adventurers who came to India. The author evaluates the different Oriental diseases, their

symptoms and effects on the patients as noticed by the French' travellers and adventurers in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Several factors have hampered economic growth in Nigeria, though there has been improvement in recent time. Nevertheless, it remains fragile and is not strong enough to significantly reduce the prevailing level of poverty in the country. "Analysis of Foreign and Domestic Investment on Economic Growth in Nigeria (1980-2013)" by Ibrahim W and Okunade Sheu finds out that foreign and domestic investment have a strong influence both in the short and long run, on the economic growth of Nigeria. The result shows uni-directional long-run causality between domestic investments to real GDP in Nigeria.

The increasing urbanisation has brought many problems and challenges to the policy makers at the state level. As Urban Local Bodies [ULBs] are the major service providers in urban areas, the disparities in their income, expenditure, and functional abilities are an index of regional disparities. Therefore, the role of urban local bodies cannot be ignored. In this context "Regional Imbalance in the Service Level Benchmarking of Urban Local Bodies (UBLS) in Karnataka" by Shiddalingaswami V Hanagodimath and Tigiripalli Bramhanandam analyses Regional imbalances in urban service mechanization using the data from urban service level benchmarking.

The agricultural development experience of Kerala since the last seventies has shown a sharp decline in the area under food crops and the continuous expansion of non-food crops. N Karunakaran in his article "Growth of Crop-output in Kerala-Is it Real or monetary?" has tried to analyse growth of crop-output in Kerala in real and monetary terms for the last five decades.

Climate change is a global environmental problem which has been receiving intense political attention both at the domestic and international levels. Climate change is a human development issue which undermines expanding human potential, developing capabilities and enlarging freedom. It poses major obstacles to progress in meeting MDGs and maintaining progress in raising the HDI. "Impact of Climate Change on Human Development in India: Identifying Links and Need for Adaptation Strategies" by K P

Vipin Chandran analyses the linkages between climate change, health and economic development in India.

From the days of yore, the tribal communities are living in forests and most of their life and livelihood has been linked with their forests. Education, which is an important avenue for upgrading the economic and social status of a person in the society, is not accessible to these oppressed communities. In this context, Brahmanandam and BosuBabu in their article “State Of Primary Education Among Tribals: Issues and Challanges” examine the historical background of the schedule tribe and their educational status and also the educational policies and its impact on the tribal communities.

We wish a very intellectually stimulating read to our readers. We also wish to thank all the scholars and reviewers who have contributed to this issue of Artha.

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